

MINUTES FOR THE August 10, 2017, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, MOORHEAD, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Krabbenhoft at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson
 Joel Hildebrandt, Vice Chairperson
 Carol Schoff, Treasurer
 Richard Menholt, Reporter

 Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
 Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician
 Gabe Foltz, District Technician/ CAI
 Craig Halverson, District Technician/ CFO
 Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
 Tony Nelson, PF Biologist
 Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

 Absent: Sharon Askelson, WRWD Manager
 Sharon Lean, District Conservationist

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA:

M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to approve the August agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

LONG LAKE CONSERVATION PRESENTATION:

Bridger Mongeau talked about his time spent at camp. He enjoyed earning his hunters safety and learning new things about hunting. He also enjoyed the games and friends that he met while at camp.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A draft copy of the July 13, 2017, meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the August meeting.

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schoff, to approve the July 13, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mandy discussed the financials.

M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

APPROVE STATE COST SHARE CONTRACTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:

CS B17-01 R.Bjerke for a Buffer planting in the amount of \$567.00

CS B17-02 S. Akers for a Buffer planting in the amount of \$2,400.00

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schoff, to approve above CS contract for assistance. Motion carried.

CS 16-08 G.Wyland for a streambank and shoreline protection project in the amount of \$4,000.00

M/S/P, Menholt/Schoff, to approve above CS contract for assistance. Motion carried.

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID:

The list of vouchers from Elect #17-49 – 17-53 and Quick books checks #19414-19436 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Menholt, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed. Motion carried.

NRCS ITEMS: No Report

OFFICE SPACE:

Kevin stated that he spoke with Ron Carlsen. Ron stated that since the building had been sold to a new owner there were changes that had to be made to the FSA lease which delayed the start of construction.

AREA SERVER UPDATE

Kevin stated that Scott Wendorff, Lakes Country Service Coop, stopped into the office to introduce himself and discuss wiring for the server and different hook-ups that may be needed in the future.

BUFFER PROGRAM:

Gabe stated that there will be an updated map out sometime in August. Landowners have been coming in and signing up for cost-share and the extension for buffers. Craig, Kevin, and Gabe went to Ulen to visit sites that are being farmed through they are working with the landowners and BWSR to come up with an alternative practice that would work for these areas.

WRWD PRESENTATION:

Gabe, Kevin, and Tony gave a brief presentation on the Buffer Law at the Wild Rice Watershed District meeting. Gabe talked about areas that are in compliance and which ones are not. There was a discussion held about the Watershed potentially offering easements, purchasing the buffer strip areas, or having landowners work through the process of planting the buffers.

CLAY COUNTY BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Kevin discussed the meeting with the Clay County Board on July 25th. He stated that he had submitted our budget with a 2% cost of living adjustment. Brian Berg stated that the current cost of living adjustment being looked at for county employees is 2.5%. Kevin added the 2.5% increase to the budget and re-submitted it with the increase to our original request. There was a discussion held on the district capacity match dollars that will be available for 2018.

2018 DISTRICT CAPACITY GRANT:

Kevin stated that the BWSR Board approved the 2018 District Capacity Grants in the amount of \$100,000 per SWCD. In addition, the 2018 Local Capacity Matching Grants opportunity exists similar to the 2017 program. The same formula will be used for each county (for Clay SWCD, the amount was \$18,000.) Other grants approved by the BWSR Board; was \$35,000 Buffer Program, and \$60,000 Buffer Cost-Share Program. We will meet with Brett to discuss work plan items for the District Capacity funds.

AUTHORIZE LYNN TO SIGN OPATRIL REPLACEMENT PLAN:

Lynn discussed the replacement plan. He stated that the plan is ready to move forward after the comment period is met which would be before the September Board Meeting. He is requesting authorization to sign the Notice of Decision to keep the plan in motion instead of having to wait for the September Board Meeting.

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Menholt, to approve Lynn Foss for authorization to sign Steve Opatril's Wetland Replacement Notice of Decision (project specific). Motion Carried.

NITRATE TESTING:

Lynn stated that the second invoice has been sent to the MN Department of Agriculture on July 31. There were 1,159 test kits sent out with approximately 41% of the test kits being submitted to the lab. There were 11 townships that were included in the study. The deadline for samples to be submitted is August 25. The results will be constructed after all the tests are completed.

NITROGEN FERTILIZER REGULATION LISTENING SESSION:

Kevin and Richard attended the meeting. Landowners have concerns with the map of the vulnerable areas. It was suggested to MDA to possibly do a study in those areas to see if there is even a nitrogen problem. There are comments being taken until August 25 on the draft rule.

FALL TOUR:

Kevin stated that the bus has been reserved for September 14. The tour will start around 8 and run until approximately 11:30 am. Discussed people to invite. Discussed changing our board meeting to 1:00 on September 14.

M/S/P, Schoff/Menholt, to approve the 1:00pm start time for our monthly board meeting. Motion carried.

BWSR LISTENING SESSION:

Kevin stated that John Jaschke will hold a listening session in Detroit Lakes on September 6.

JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY (JAA) WEBINAR:

Kevin discussed the webinar. There is concern with not enough employees having the authority/expertise to sign off on contracts.

BWSR HIRING 2 REGIONAL TRAINING ENGINEERS:

Kevin discussed the positions. SWCD staff is looking forward to training opportunities that could potentially be available through these individuals.

NEWSLETTER:

Kevin stated that there was a fall newsletter constructed that was sent to the printer August 10. There was a discussion held on the topics of the newsletter.

CLAY COUNTY EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING:

Kevin stated that Ulen area farmers were involved in a F1 tornado that did substantial damage to the area. The reason for the meeting was to discuss the damage and submit a disaster declaration for the area through FSA.

"25 by 25" TOWN HALL MEETINGS:

Kevin stated that there will be a meeting held in Crookston on September 5 to discuss the Governor's plan. There will also be time set aside to discuss the Nitrogen Fertilizer rule. Paul and Kevin plan on attending the meeting.

CREP MEETING:

Kevin and Tony are registered to attend the meeting being held in Fergus Falls on August 15. There will be specific examples discussed for the CREP program.

MCIT DIVIDEND:

Kevin discussed the dividend we will be receiving from MCIT for our 2017 insurance premium.

SWCD GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE:

There was a discussion held on the conference being held in Bloomington on September 14-15. Due to the tour no one plans on attending at this time.

BIG IRON:

Kevin stated that we will share a booth with Cass SCD on September 12-14 for the Big Iron show being held at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo.

REPORTS:**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

Jenny stated that the Buffer meeting that will be held in September to discuss the ordinance and language for enforcing the buffer. The half-cent sales tax will become effective as of October 1. The jail is on schedule. The parking lot in front of the courthouse is open and quite a bit larger than what it was.

WRWD:

No Report

MASWCD:

No report

CFO PROGRAM: Craig stated that he has 8 compliance checks to do.

NO TILL DRILL: Craig stated that the drill is in use again for the fall season.

CLAY COUNTY FAIR:

Staff discussed the fair booth. There were 5 Meyers Spruce trees given out at the fair.

URBAN CONSERVATION:

Mandy discussed a meeting she had with Ashley, Cass SCD, and Kimberly, Riverkeepers. She is working on a new design for the compost tumbler in hopes to make the workshop go more smoothly. There was a discussion held at the meeting to advertise the workshops outside of the Fargo/Moorhead area with a possibility of a workshop being held outside of Fargo/Moorhead. There was also a discussion held to possibly incorporate a pollinator workshop for next spring that would be advertised through Moorhead Community Ed with Clay SWCD and Cass SCD offering a cost-share for the registration. Discussed holding a pollinator workshop this fall.

LWM/WCA: See report

PLANNING COMMISSION:

No report

RRVCSA:

No report

CAI UPDATE:

Gabe stated that he attended the CAI short course held in Owatonna on July 17-19. They discussed plant protection, pollinators, seed programs, and pest testing among other topics. Through an application process there is funding available for the first time for the CAI program. Gabe stated that he and Craig have been spot spraying areas. Leo will continue to spray a few roads as needed. He and Kevin have dealt with weed complaints as they have come in.

PF UPDATE: Tony stated that he has finished the WRP monitoring and has sent it onto the state. He is doing 6 status reviews for NRCS. There have been 52 emergency haying requests for 1500 acres thus far.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING:

No report

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 15 – CREP Meeting – Fergus Falls
September 5 – “25 by 25” Town Hall Meeting – Crookston
September 6 –BWSR Listening Session – Detroit Lakes
September 12-14- Big Iron – RRV Fairgrounds
September 14 – SWCD Tour
September 14 – Board Meeting

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 14, 2017 - - - 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Supervisor Krabbenhoft called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved Date